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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

Y E A R 1943

(War Edition)

BOROUGH OF GOSPORT

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Gosport

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my thirteenth Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the borough for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

For security reasons tables of local populations and certain other items of interest are excluded. When considering the figures of vital statistics it must be remembered that the same reliance cannot be placed upon them as in pre-war years when the population could be estimated more accurately.

Excepting an epidemic of measles in the first quarter of the year and the prevalence of whooping cough in the second and third quarters, the health of the people remained good and well up to the pre-war standard throughout 1943, the fourth year of the war.

The main features of interest are as follows:-

Births per 1,000 population: 23.85
compared with 16.5 for England and Wales

Deaths per 1,000 population: 12.88
compared with 12.1 for England and Wales

Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births: 40
compared with 49 for England and Wales

Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births: 2.29
compared with 2.29 for England and Wales

Tuberculosis Death Rate All Forms 0.65 per 1,000 population

Cancer Death Rate 1.88 per 1,000 population

Other items of interest will be found in the body of my report.

In conclusion, I would again like to express my thanks to the members of the Council, and especially to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and my staff for their helpful co-operation.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

G. W. FLEMING

Medical Officer of Health

HEALTH COMMITTEE

THE MAYOR

Chairman: Councillor WHEELER

Vice-Chairman: Councillor E. H. SMITH

Aldermen: MAIN (MRS), SILVER, WILLIAMS

Councillors: ABEL, AUSTIN, DUGMORE, NOBES, OVENS, PARKIN, WILLIAMS (MRS)

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health, School Medical Officer and Medical Superintendent of the Isolation Hospital:

G. W. FLEMING
L R C P & S, L R F P & S, D P H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector
T. E. OWENS
Cert R San I, Meat & Food Insp Cert, etc.

Additional Sanitary Inspector
H. R. DUKE
Cert R San I, Meat & Food Insp Cert.

Chief Clerk
H. J. MOORE

Assistant Clerks:
Miss J. G. FISHER
K. WILLIAMSON (Military Service from August, 1939)

Rodent Control Officer
P. DOWSETT
(Appointed 9th August, 1943)

Disinfector and Mortuary Attendant
E. G. COLES

Mosquito Sprayer
C. GIDDY

SECTION A

SUMMARY FOR 1943

1. General Statistics

Area in acres (land and inland water)	6,227
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1943) according to Rate Books	12,192
Rateable Value	£392,077
Sum represented by Penny Rate	£1,446

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics

Live Births

Legitimate Illegitimate	Rate per 1,000 population	23.85
	(England and Wales	16.5)

Stillbirths

Legitimate Illegitimate	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births	(26.37 (1.14

Deaths	Rate per 1,000 population	12.88
	(England and Wales	12.1)

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
Puerperal Infection	Nil
Other Puerperal Causes	2.29
Total	2.29

Infant Mortality:-

per 1,000 live births	40
(England and Wales	49)
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	40.55
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	33.99

SECTION B

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

County Council Lab., Winchester... Tel. Winchester 4415
E. P. H. Laboratory, Winchester... " Winchester 3807

(b) Ambulance Facilities

Ambulances maintained by Borough Council:-
General and Accident Cases (2 ambulances)...Tel. 89263
Infectious Diseases (1 ambulance)..... " 8535

(c) Nursing in the Home

Victoria Nursing Society,
Peel Road, Gosport.....Tel. 8039

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

Tuberculosis

Under County Medical Officer,
The Castle, Winchester.....Tel. Winchester 4415

Clinic: 4 Clarence Square, Gosport. Mondays 9.30 a.m.

Maternity and Child Welfare

Under County Medical Officer,
The Castle, Winchester.....Tel. Winchester 4415

Clinic: Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport.
Wednesdays 10 a.m. - 12 noon and 2 - 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal Clinics

Under County Medical Officer,
The Castle, Winchester.....Tel. Winchester 4415

Clinic: War Memorial Hospital, Gosport.....Tel. 8059
Thursdays 2 p.m. (except 5th Thursday in month)

School Clinic

2 Stoke Road, Gosport.....Tel. 89131

Minor Ailments - Open 9 a.m. weekdays (except Saturdays and holidays)

Dental - By appointment only
Eye - By appointment only
Orthopaedic - By appointment only

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres (Contd.)

Venereal Diseases

Under County Medical Officer,
The Castle, Winchester.....Tel. Winchester 4415

Clinics: St. Marys Hospital, Portsmouth....Tel. 2476

Males	(Tuesdays and (Thursdays (10 am - 5 pm	Females	(Mondays 5 - 7 pm (Wednesdays 2 pm (Fridays 10 am

Vaccination

Vaccination Officer - C. F. Lowington,
Town Hall, Gosport...Tel. 8155

Public Vaccinator - Dr. J. C. Glen
1 The Avenue,
Alverstoke.....Tel. 8008

(e) Hospitals Public and Voluntary:

War Memorial Hospital - Voluntary.....Tel. 8059
Infectious Diseases
Hospital - Local Authority....Tel. 8535
Haslar - Naval Hospital.....Tel.74571
N.C.H.& O.,
Alverstoke Branch - Emergency Hospital.Tel.89196

SECTION C

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Water

The main supply is a typical chalk water remaining practically constant in quality.

The following Water Samples were submitted for Analysis during 1943 and all were reported satisfactory:-

	Chem. & Bact. Exam.	Chem. Exam. Only	Bact. Exam. Only
Public Water Supply	9	2	16
Emergency Supplies:-			
Feeding Centres	-	-	20
Rest Centres	-	-	13
Static Drinking Water Tanks	-	-	4
First Aid Posts	-	-	3
Well	-	-	1
TOTALS	9	2	57

Rivers and Streams - There was no pollution in the area requiring any action.

Public Cleansing - House refuse was collected once weekly during 1943 and disposed of by dumping on selected sites. Shortage of labour and transport has made it very difficult to comply with the recommendation of the Ministry of Health that all refuse should be covered with 9 inches of well firmed soil but if this method of refuse disposal is to be continued it is of paramount importance to the public health that all refuse should be quickly and adequately covered with well firmed soil and that all tins should be properly crushed before dumping. Inadequately covered refuse is an ideal breeding ground for flies and uncrushed tins attract rats.

Sanitary Inspections of the Area

Public Air Raid Shelters	1047
Dwelling Houses	
Inspections under Public Health Act	418
Inspections under Housing Act	19
After Infectious Disease	752
Overcrowding	14
Complaints received and attended to	356
Sanitary Dustbins	4
Drainage Inspections	335
Drains tested	15
Houses let in lodgings	3
Common Lodging Houses	26
Offensive Trades	2
Tents, Vans and Sheds	5
Stables and Stable Yards	35
Piggeries	80
Factories (Power)	78
Factories (Non-power)	19
Outworkers' Rooms	33
Bakehouses	20
Public Conveniences	21
Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act	121
Schools	4
Shops Acts and Young Persons (Employment) Act	341
Mosquito Control	76
Vacant Land and Dumps	5
Revisits to Premises under Notice	1814
Works in Progress	48
Interviews with Owners etc.	572
Verminous Rooms or Premises	137
Slum Clearance Revisits	24
Miscellaneous Visits	1104

Sanitary Inspections of the Area (Contd)

Meat and Foods

Slaughter Houses	46
Butchers' Shops and Stalls	159
Fishmongers and Poulterers	47
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	62
Grocers and Other Food Shops	244
Fried Fish Shops	31
Dairies and Milkshops	160
Cowsheds	5
Preserved Food Premises	27
Cafes	47
Street Hawkers and Vendors	7
Milk Samples	66
Milk Detergent Samples for Bact. Exam.	31
Milk Bottles	33
Water Samples	63
Food and Drug Samples	124
Miscellaneous	284
Total Visits	8964

Summary of Sanitary Work Carried Out

Houses:	Roofs	72
	Walls (External)	10
	Chimneys and Stacks	6
	Rainwater Pipes	16
	Eaves Guttering	25
	Yards and Passages	3
	Dampness Abated	7
	Wallplaster	6
	Ceilings	10
	Floors	58
	Windows	24
	Sashcords	10
	Additional Ventilation	5
	Stairs	3
	Doors	11
	Cleansed	12
	Woodwork	3
	Fireplaces	6
	Cooking Ranges	9
	Coppers	3
	Sinks (Repair and Renewal)	3
	Sink Waste Pipes	16
	Interior Water Supplies Provided	2
	Repairs to Water Supplies	12
	Miscellaneous	22

Summary of Sanitary Work Carried Out (Contd)

Drainage:	Drains Cleared	117
	Drains Repaired	15
	New Drains	3
	Other Defects	32
Water Closets:	Cleared	8
	Repaired	61
	Cleansed	1
	New Closets Provided	2
	Privy Closet Converted	1
Dustbins:	New Provided	3
Miscellaneous:	Offensive Accumulations	20
	Verminous Houses	50
	Animals	8
	Public Air Raid Shelters	115
	Rats	6
Contraventions:	Common Lodging Houses	6
	Dairies and Milkshops	8
	Food Premises	2
	Piggeries	4
	Factories	8
	Fried Fish Shops	1
	Shops Acts	6

Total Defects Remedied 831

Notices Served	Informal Notices:	Public Health Acts	352
		Shops Acts	10
	Statutory Notices		7

Notices Complied With 346

Action taken under the Shops Act, 1934, and the Young Persons (Employment) Act, 1938

341 visits were made
10 Informal Notices were complied with and various minor contraventions rectified without notices being served.

Camping Sites - No change

Smoke Abatement - No action required

Swimming Baths and Pools - No change

Summary of Sanitary Work Carried Out (Contd.)

Eradication of Bed Bugs

The following action was taken during the year:-

	Council Houses	Other Houses	Total
No. of houses found to be infested	7	18	25
No. of houses disinfested	7	18	25

Mosquito Control

No change in the arrangements but effective control was impossible owing to flooding of wide areas for defence purposes.

During the year 44 gallons of larvicide and 172 gallons of paraffin were used for this purpose. The cost to the Corporation for wages, larvicide, paraffin and haulage etc. was £188. 1. 3d.

Rodent Control

A whole-time Rodent Officer was appointed in August and the following work was done by the end of the year:-

Premises inspected	580
Premises infested with rats	231
" " " mice	96
Sewer Manholes inspected	200
Manholes infested with rats	65

Of the rat infested premises 7 were classified as major infestations and 224 as minor. The 7 major infestations comprised 6 naval establishments and the Council Tip at Clayhall.

Poisoning was carried out at the Clayhall Tip, the Lee sewage tanks and salvage depot, 8 business premises, 3 British Restaurants, a Nursery School, and in 45 sewer manholes.

Premises Subject to Control by the Local Authority

Houses let in lodgings	4
Common Lodging Houses	1
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	15
Slaughter-houses	9
Hawkers' Premises	13

SECTION D

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year:-

1. (a) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	286
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	437
2. (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932.	Nil
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	Nil
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	Nil
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	286

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	230

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:-	
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	6
2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By Owners	3
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	2
C. Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding

(a)	(i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	6
	(ii) Number of families dwelling therein	6
	(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein	46
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	Nil
(c)	(i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	13
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	Nil

Slum Clearance - Position at 31st December, 1943.

Total number of Houses demolished	393

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk Supply 33 Samples of Pasteurised Milk (including 21 samples of School Milk) were submitted to the phosphatase test for efficient pasteurisation and examined for bacterial count. All the samples passed the phosphatase test and in 4 cases only was the bacterial count slightly higher than the standard.

8 Samples of T.T.Milk and 3 Samples of Ordinary Milk were submitted to the methylene blue test and to a test for the presence of B.Coli. 2 T.T.milk samples failed to pass the methylene blue test and one of these 2 samples also contained B.Coli. None of the samples of ordinary milk passed the methylene blue test and only one of them did not contain B.Coli.

No T.B. organisms were found in any of the samples.

33 Milk Bottles (including 20 School Milk Bottles) were submitted for examination after they had received treatment in the bottle-washing plants and 32 Samples of Detergents used in the bottle-washing plants were tested for sterility. 8 bottles and 4 detergents were unsatisfactory and suitable action was taken in each case.

Milk (Special Designations) Order

Licences issued by the Local Authority in 1943:-

Pasteurisers	2
Distributors (T.T.)	4
" " (Pasteurised)	3

Meat and Other Foods

During the year 63 pigs were slaughtered in the Borough and examined: 2 heads (tuberculosis) were condemned and surrendered.

Other foodstuffs condemned as unfit for human consumption were as follows:-

Bacon	205½ lbs.	Flour & Flour Sweepings	313 lbs.
Beans & Peas	4133 "	Mustard	½ "
Biscuits	2039 "	Macaroni	378 "
Bread	80 "	Meat Extract	4 botts.
Canned Goods:		Meat Pies	51
Vegetables	223 tins	Mixed Sweepings	154 lbs.
Meat, Soup, Fish	451 "	Onions	2968 "
Milk	335 "	Prunes	12½ "
Fruit	660 "	Pickles	10 botts.
Miscellaneous	117 "	Potatoes	6¾ lbs.
Jam	16 "	Raisins	24 "
Paste	356 "	Salt	3634 "
Cheese	231½ lbs.	Sausages	10 "
Confectionery	198 "	Sausage Rusk	448 "
Cereals	4535 "	Sausage Rolls	111
Coffee	50 "	Spaghetti	598 lbs.
Corned Beef	2703 "	Sourkraut	6¼ "
Cakes	107 doz.	Suet	42 "
Dessicated Coconut	36 lbs.	Sultanas	19 "
Eggs	366	Tea	78 "
Fats	79¾ lbs.	Tomato Juice	3 quarts
Fish	6 boxes	Various (Fire Damage)	20 lbs, 84 pkts & 3 tins.
Fish Cakes	348		

Food and Drugs Act, 1938

Samples taken by the Inspectors during the year:-

Article	Genuine	Unsatisfactory	Total
Milk	69 (a)	21 (b)	90
Other Foods	47	3 (c)	50
Drugs	9	-	9
	125	24	149

(a) Includes 53 samples taken from Producers on delivery to Retailers and 4 "Appeal to Cow" samples.

(b) Includes 11 samples taken from Producers on delivery to Retailers, 2 samples taken from Producers at place of production and 8 "Appeal to Cow" samples.
These samples were all taken from two farms and no action was taken as "Appeal to Cow" samples were unsatisfactory.

(c) Action taken:- (i) Vendor warned and remainder of stock withdrawn from sale
(ii) Vendor warned
(iii) Sample taken for Ministry of Food.

SECTION F

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases

Scarlet Fever	There were 99 cases of this disease compared with 94 in 1942. There were no deaths.
Diphtheria	There were 4 cases and no deaths.
Enteric Fever (Includes Typhoid & paratyphoid)	No cases
Ac. Poliomyelitis	Two cases (both under 15 years) notified and both admitted to Lord Mayor Treloar Hospital, Alton, by arrangement with the County Council.
Dysentery	No cases
Pneumonia	There were 47 cases compared with 44 in 1942. There were 14 deaths.
Cerebro-spinal Fever	There were 2 cases compared with 4 in 1942. There was one death.
Measles	There were 257 cases compared with 605 in 1942. There were 2 deaths
Whooping Cough	There were 129 cases compared with 88 in 1942. There were no deaths.
Food Poisoning	No cases
Scabies	32 notifications were received during the year - 25 civilian and 7 service cases (compared with 38 civilian cases and 16 service cases in 1942). Of the civilian cases, 14 were treated at the School Clinic, 9 received treatment at F.A. Posts and 2 (Admiralty civilian employees) were treated at Haslar Hospital. Service cases have their own treatment centres. 159 school children were also treated for scabies during the year.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases (Cont.)

Immunisation against Organisms of the Typhoid Group

No applications for this treatment were received during the year.

Immunization against Diphtheria

There were 35 notifications of diphtheria in 1938, the year in which we commenced immunization in Gosport, whereas only 37 notifications of diphtheria have been received in the past 5 years. Eloquent evidence of the value of immunization.

The percentage of children immunized in the 5 - 15 age group fell from 86% at the end of the year 1942 to 72% at the end of 1943 and the under five children from 51% to 38%.

This is a serious decrease of which the public should take note and do all in their power to encourage the immunization of all children from 1 - 15 years old, for it is only by raising the percentage of children immunized to at least 75% and by keeping it at that level or higher that epidemics of diphtheria can be prevented. It should not be necessary to lay down a six-monthly barrage by wireless, cinema and loud speaker to keep the importance of immunization in parents' minds. We only need one reminder to collect a £10 note, so why should we be so careless about the lives of our children upon which we put a far higher value.

Cases of Infectious Diseases Notified during the Year 1943:

	Total Cases Notified	Total cases Admitted to:		Total Deaths
		Blake Isolation Hospital	Other Hospitals	
Scarlet Fever	99	10	-	-
Diphtheria	4	3	-	-
Measles	257	-	-	2
Whooping Cough	129	-	-	-
Pneumonia	47	-	8	14
Cerebro-spinal Fever	2	-	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	-	2	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	6	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	-	1	-
Erysipelas	18	-	-	-
Observation	-	7	-	-
Totals	565	20	13	17

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and Other Diseases (Cont.)

Tuberculosis (New Cases and Mortality during 1943):

	NEW CASES - 72				DEATHS - 23			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Undr. 1 yr.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 4 yrs.	-	-	3	2	-	-	1	1
5 - 14 yrs.	-	2	3	8	-	-	-	2
15 - 24 yrs.	10	6	2	3	-	4	-	1
25 - 34 yrs.	8	5	-	1	2	1	-	-
35 - 44 yrs.	8	2	-	-	3	1	-	-
45 - 54 yrs.	5	-	-	-	7	-	-	-
55 - 64 yrs.	3	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
65 & up	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	34	15	8	15	12	6	1	4

Tuberculosis Death Rate:

All Forms of Tuberculosis - 0.65 per 1,000 population
Pulmonary Tuberculosis - 0.50 per 1,000 population

Ratio of Non-notified deaths to total deaths - 1 : 23

There was no instance of wilful neglect or refusal to notify.

There is no evidence of excessive incidence of, or mortality from, tuberculosis in any particular occupation in the area.

Tuberculosis Dispensary:-

Number of patients under supervision or treatment at the Dispensary.....160

Number admitted to Sanatoria or as in-patients to any Hospital under the County Council Scheme..23

BIRTH-RATES, CIVILIAN DEATH-RATES, ANALYSIS of MORTALITY MATERNAL MORTALITY, and CASE-RATES for certain INFECTIOUS DISEASES in the year 1943

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population:-	England and Wales	126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census	London Administrative County	GOSPORT
Births					
Live	16.5	18.6	19.4	15.8	23.85
Still	0.51	0.63	0.61	0.45	0.67
Deaths					
All Causes	12.1	14.2	12.7	15.0	12.88
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Scarlet Fever	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-
Whooping Cough	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	-
Diphtheria	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.02	-
Influenza	0.37	0.36	0.37	0.27	0.31
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.06
Notifications					
Typhoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.02	0.01	-
Paratyphoid Fever	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever	0.08	0.10	0.06	0.09	0.06
Scarlet Fever	3.01	3.29	3.54	3.80	2.78
Whooping Cough	2.54	2.82	2.25	2.68	3.63
Diphtheria	0.88	1.12	0.77	0.74	0.11
Erysipelas	0.31	0.35	0.27	0.42	0.51
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	9.88	9.23	9.77	9.17	7.23
Pneumonia	1.34	1.62	1.16	1.27	1.32
Rates per 1,000 Live Births:-					
Deaths under 1 yr.	49	58	46	58	40
Deaths from Diarrhoea & Enteritis under 2 yrs	5.3	7.9	4.4	10.4	5.9
Rates per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births:-					
Notifications					
Puerperal Fever / Puerperal Pyrexia	11.68	15.11	9.26	3.05 / 15.23*	1.14
Maternal Mortality					
Abortion with Sepsis	0.34				-
Abortion without Sepsis	0.11				-
Puerperal Infections	0.39				-
Other Maternal Causes	1.45				2.29

Abortion

Mortality per million women aged 15-45:

	With Sepsis	Without Sepsis
England and Wales	25	8

* Including Puerperal Fever.